

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method usable with a computer, comprising:

2 in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, coupling a load to
3 conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the supply voltage
4 plane not receiving power from a power resource of the computer in response to the
5 predetermined sleep state; and

6 in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the
7 predetermined sleep state, decoupling the load so that the load does not conduct current from
8 the supply voltage plane to ground.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

3 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined state other than the
4 predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

5 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a
6 state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

7 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states
8 comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling controls a voltage level on the
2 supply voltage plane produced by a powered peripheral.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling comprises activating a switch to
2 establish a current path between the supply voltage plane and ground.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the decoupling comprises deactivating a
2 switch to remove a current path between the supply voltage and ground.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 in response to the computer being in said predetermined state other than the
3 predetermined sleep state, coupling the power resource to the supply voltage plane.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage
2 regulator to furnish power to the supply voltage plane in response to the computer being in
3 said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state.

1 11. A computer comprising:
2 a supply voltage plane;
3 a power resource to provide power to the supply voltage plane;
4 a load; and
5 a circuit to:
6 in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, couple the
7 load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the supply
8 voltage plane not receiving power from the power resource in response to the predetermined
9 sleep state, and
10 in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the
11 predetermined sleep state, decouple the load so that the load does not conduct current from
12 the supply voltage plane to ground.

1 12. The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit comprises:
2 a switch.

1 13. The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

1 14. The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

1 15. The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a
2 state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

1 16. The computer of claim 15, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states
2 comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1 17. The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit couples the load to conduct
2 current to control a voltage level on the supply voltage plane produced by a powered
3 peripheral to the computer.

1 18. The computer of claim 11, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage
2 regulator to furnish power to the supply voltage plane in response to the computer being in
3 said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state.

1 19. A system comprising:
2 a computer comprising:
3 a supply voltage plane;
4 a power resource to provide power to the supply voltage plane;
5 a load; and
6 a circuit to:
7 in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state,
8 couple the load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the
9 supply voltage plane not receiving power from the power resource in response to the
10 predetermined sleep state, and
11 in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than
12 the predetermined sleep state, decouple the load so that the load does not conduct current
13 from the supply voltage supply plane to ground; and
14 a powered peripheral coupled to the computer and capable of producing a back-driven
15 voltage on the supply voltage plane.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the circuit comprises:
2 a switch.

1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

1 22. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined state other than the
2 predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

1 23. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a
2 state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

1 24. The system of claim 19, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states
2 comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the circuit couples the load to conduct
2 current to control a level of the voltage produced by the powered peripheral.

1 26. The system of claim 19, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage
2 regulator.